

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 12, 2004

SENATE BILL

No. 1652

Introduced by Senator Murray

February 20, 2004

~~An act relating to solar energy. An act to add Chapter 11.3 (commencing with Section 19875) to Part 3 of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to solar energy.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1652, as amended, Murray. ~~Residential building standards:~~ solar energy systems.

Existing law requires a solar energy system to meet applicable standards and requirements imposed by state and local permitting authorities.

This bill would require, on and after January 1, 2006, at least 25% of all single-family residences constructed as part of a development of at least 25 homes and a density of at least 20 homes per acre that is offered for resale to be constructed with a solar photovoltaic energy system for each unit.

~~The State Housing Law requires the housing or building department or, if there is no building department, the health department, of every city, county, or city and county, or a specified environmental agency to enforce within its jurisdiction all of the State Housing Law, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code, and other specified rules and regulations.~~

~~This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would require new residential construction to use solar energy systems, including any photovoltaic solar collector or other photovoltaic solar energy device whose primary purpose is to provide~~

~~for the collection, distribution, and storage of solar energy for electric generation.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

~~SECTION 1.—It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Air pollution is a serious and widespread public health and environmental problem in California, with economic ramifications.

(b) California has ongoing energy affordability and reliability issues. The construction of new centralized powerplants comes at a great cost to the state and to ratepayers in the form of increased air pollution, and expensive construction, permitting, and infrastructure costs.

(c) California currently relies on natural gas for the bulk of its electricity needs, and increasing energy demands put pressure on limited natural gas supplies and threaten rising costs.

(d) More than 150,000 homes will be built annually in California in the coming years, threatening energy reliability and affordability, and increasing air pollution.

(e) California has vast solar energy resources that can be harnessed to generate electricity and reduce the consumption of natural gas.

(f) Installing solar photovoltaic home energy systems on new homes can significantly improve air quality by offsetting energy otherwise provided by fossil-fuel powerplants and by preventing the need to build new fossil-fuel powerplants to meet growing energy needs.

(g) Increasing California's solar power market will also bring additional manufacturing, installation, and sales jobs to the state at a higher rate than natural gas powerplants.

(h) Ultra-clean distributed generation, such as solar photovoltaic systems, benefits all ratepayers by preventing the need for expensive infrastructure associated with centralized powerplants.

1 (i) *Installing solar energy systems during construction is a*
2 *cost-effective way of realizing all of the benefits of this technology.*
3 *SEC. 2. Chapter 11.3 (commencing with Section 19875) is*
4 *added to Part 3 of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code, to*
5 *read:*

6
7 *CHAPTER 11.3. RESIDENTIAL SOLAR ENERGY CONSTRUCTION*
8

9 *19875. For purposes of this chapter:*

10 (a) *“Solar photovoltaic system” means any photovoltaic solar*
11 *collector or other photovoltaic solar energy device whose primary*
12 *purpose is to provide for the collection, storage, and distribution*
13 *of solar energy for electric generation.*

14 (b) *“Solar energy system” does not include an electric plant as*
15 *defined by Section 217 of the Public Utility Code.*

16 *19875.1. (a) On and after January 1, 2006, a minimum of 25*
17 *percent of single-family residences constructed as part of a*
18 *development of at least 25 homes per project and with a density of*
19 *not more than 20 homes per acre that is intended or offered for*
20 *resale shall be constructed with solar photovoltaic energy systems*
21 *that produce an average of at least two kilowatts alternating*
22 *current of electrical power per residence. This minimum*
23 *percentage of single-family residences shall increase by an*
24 *additional 10 percent each year until January 1, 2010.*

25 (b) *Subdivision (a) shall not prevent an owner or developer*
26 *from installing both solar photovoltaic and solar thermal systems*
27 *in excess of this minimum standard.*

28 ~~legislation that would require new residential construction to use~~
29 ~~solar energy systems, including any photovoltaic solar collector or~~
30 ~~other photovoltaic solar energy device whose primary purpose is~~
31 ~~to provide for the collection, distribution, and storage of solar~~
32 ~~energy for electric generation.~~